

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 DOE-15 DODE-00
PM-05 NASA-01 NSC-05 DUMY-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /097 R

DRAFTED BY L:L/UNA:SBOND:MAB

APPROVED BY IO:GBHELMAN -

L:LRMARKS

S/MS:CWKAMMAN

OES:OHGANLEY

S/P:WGATHRIGHT

EUR/SOV:ABOHLN

PM/ISP:MAGMICHAUD

IO/UNP:DAMACUK

NASA/GC:SNHOSENBALL

-----062975 110521Z /16

R 101829Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118997

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, TSPA, UR

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE ISSUES - U.S.-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS

REFS: (A) STATE 49653; (B) MOSCOW 3032

1. IN COURSE OF THE MARCH MEETING OF THE OUTER SPACE LEGAL
SUBCOMMITTEE, SOVIET DELEGATE, BORIS MAIORSKI, EXPRESSED
VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR THE UNITED STATES AND
USSR TO HAVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS PRIOR TO THE JUNE 1978
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COMMENCEMENT OF THE UN'S OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE (OSC). HE
REGRETTED THAT EFFORTS TO CONSULT PRIOR TO THE LEGAL SUB-
COMMITTEE MEETING HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL DUE TO THE SHORT
NOTICE GIVEN THE SOVIETS. (REF A CONTAINS US REQUEST,
REF B THE SOVIET REGRETS.)

2. USG HAS GIVEN THOROUGH CONSIDERATION TO IDEA OF

BILATERALS AND WISHES TO ESTABLISH A TIME AND AGENDA FOR MEETING WITH THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE OSC.

3. CONSISTENT WITH OUR MUTUAL COMMITMENT IN ARTICLE 4 OF THE 1977 US-USSR AGREEMENT CONCERNING COOPERATION IN THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, TO COOPERATE IN THE FIELD OF DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL SPACE LAW, WE SHARE THE DESIRE EXPRESSED BY THE SOVIETS TO

AVOID PUBLIC ACRIMONY AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE. WE AGREE THAT INFORMAL AND OPEN EXCHANGES OF VIEWS COULD BE QUITE HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD, AS LONG AS BOTH SIDES GENUINELY INTEND TO MAKE SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THOSE EXCHANGES. IN OUR VIEW, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO HAVE BILATERALS PRIOR TO THE JUNE MEETING OF THE OSC.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE AN EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS ON ISSUES RELATED TO OSC CONSIDERATION OF THE MOON TREATY, REMOTE SENSING, DBS, DEFINITION AND DELIMITATION OF OUTER SPACE, AND PROPOSALS RELATED TO THE GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT AND NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN SPACE.

5. WITH REGARD TO THE TIME AND PLACE OF SUCH CONSULTATIONS, WE WOULD PROPOSE WASHINGTON OR LONDON, MAY 25-26.
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THIS WOULD BE A FULL MONTH BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF THE OSC.

6. PROBABLE US DELEGATION HEAD WILL BE GERALD B. HELMAN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO CONVEY

ABOVE MESSAGE TO MAIORSKI OR OTHER APPROPRIATE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SPACE AGREEMENTS, SPACE EXPLORATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE118997
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: L/UNA:SBOND:MAB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780199-0717
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780573/aaaacjvt.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 834030a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 49653, 78 MOSCOW 3032
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2733604
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OUTER SPACE ISSUES - U.S.-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: TSPA, UR, US, UN
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/834030a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014